

Applicant Name Powell County
Project Name Milwaukee Roundhouse Voluntary Cleanup

Project Abstract

The Milwaukee Roundhouse site is in Powell County, the NW ¼ of T7N, R9W, Section 4 (N 46° 23.598', W 112° 44.415). The site encompasses 14.5 acres of commercial property at the end of Kentucky Street immediately adjacent to the Deer Lodge city limits. The northernmost portion of the site (not included in the 14.5 acres) is privately owned and will be cleaned up using private funding not addressed in this application. The site abuts the Clark Fork River on the east side and is across the river from the recently developed River Park System. From 1908 until 1980, the site was used for railroad locomotive repairs that led to widespread soil and limited groundwater contamination with petroleum products and, to a lesser extent, chlorinated solvents. Since the bankruptcy of the owners in 1980, the site has sat vacant and unusable and has been classified by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a high-priority Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (CECRA) site.

Limited funding has prevented the state from proceeding with cleanup of the site. In 2005, Powell County took title and has pursued funding for partial site cleanup through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Program. Powell County, as the project sponsor, has also developed a Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act (VCRA) plan to address site cleanup. Additional funding through the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Reclamation and Development Grants Program (RDGP) is critical to allow for a complete cleanup of the site and removal from the DEQ-CECRA list. With full funding from the two grant programs, cleanup of the site can be completed within two years and will allow redevelopment of the property to include a job-training center for environmental services careers. Reclamation and remediation activities present one of the best opportunities for long-term employment in this region.